

SES--87
25 June 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

THROUGH: Chief, Requirements Analysis Branch, ADD/ESG/FBIS

FROM: Laird Steinberg
Systems Engineering Support, GE

SUBJECT: Field Bureau Automation ERB Meeting Report

1. An FBA Engineering Review Board was held on 25 June 1987 at 1300. See Attachment A for the list of attendees. See Attachment B for the agenda.

2. opened the meeting and reviewed the minutes of the last FBA ERB meeting.

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a. Bill Stanbridge has received the LEC training handout on DR Procedures and will formalize the FBA ERB DR Procedures.

b. The draft FBA CM Policy has been reviewed by C/ESG. Bill will incorporate changes recommended by C/ESG.

c. The numbering of DRs and RFCs prepared by the ERB will include the two letter code representing the affected bureau and a numbering sequence beginning with 900 (ie., DR-AU-901-87, RFC-AU-901-87).

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d. [] memo establishing PC Security procedures has been received and reviewed. [] will work with Ed to finalize the procedures.

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e. The BACH 1.3 software will be pouched to each bureau except FBA-1 29 June 1987. Pending changes from the FBA-1 installs need to be submitted as an RFC by LEC prior to August.

3. Twila reviewed the status of open DRs. See Attachment C for the DR Status Report.

a. DR-SK-003-86 Copal Printer

LOGS has shipped the new Epson printer to replace the Copal printer. No response has been received regarding arrival of the printer. Nick will check on the shipment if no word has been received by 30 June. DR remains open pending arrival of the printer at Seoul.

b. DR-MB-003-86 IBM PC Disk Problem

The ERB is waiting for notification that the bureau has received the diagnostic software, reformatting instructions and replacement disk. DR remains open pending arrival and results of reformatting efforts.

c. DR-AU-034-86 Comscribe Printers

Vienna would like to use Comscribe printers on the FBA-1 system LAN. The ERB recommends that Vienna use the Okidata 192 with the paper roll and serial interface. This printer is the current baseline printer. DR is closed

d. DR-AU-044-86 LIPS-10 Laser Printer

LEC will be delivering Data Products laser printers to the Bureaus, beginning with the installation of the FBA-1 system at Bangkok. The LIPS-10 laser printers at Vienna and Hong Kong will eventually be returned to FBIS Headquarters for use at Reston, and replaced with Data Products laser printers. [] will send a message to advise Vienna and Hong Kong. DR is closed.

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e. DR-AU-001-87 FBA TRANSMIT

Vienna has requested opening a 2nd transmit port/line in order to send channel checks and keep the alt-route open. DR remains open pending preparation of the RFC by LEC.

f. DR-AU-005-87 File Server Disk Space

Vienna has a problem with Press Agency files, (many of which do not contain valid messages), over-filling the file server disk space. Regardless of the length of the message, a full 4 kbyte segment is used for each message. As a result, the file server disk space will fill up within 4 days versus the planned 7 day storage capability. The minimum 4 kbyte block size can not be changed. Temporarily, the solution is to purge the files more frequently. However, this process requires manual review of each file and is time consuming. ERB recommends making a separate log utility by agency and possibly a stand alone PC to sort and print the desired items. LEC will complete development of S/W changes by 7 July 1987.

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g. DR-AU-007-87 Intermittent Operation of Yugo IBM PCs

Vienna has had 2 IBM failures. The ERB has decided not to upgrade the old IBM PCs at the other bureaus. IBMs will be left as stand alones at the bureaus or shipped to HQ. DR is closed.

h. DR-AU-009-87 Change Press Agency Circuit to RS-232

Vienna requests an upgrade to their commo lines. Specifically, an interface mode change of the press agency circuit to RS-232. The ERB has deferred to FED for their recommendation.

i. DR-AU-010-87 Video Boards

Vienna has experienced a video board failure. LEC will get new boards within 30 days, test the boards and send them to Vienna.

j. DR-SK-001-87 BACH 2.0 Header

The BACH 2.0 header generation will use the same pinky heading. The change will occur approximately 30 October 1987.

k. DR-AU-901-87 Comm problems with Craughton swith

A ZFX problem exists with the circuit between Vienna and Craughton. [] wants to conduct a test between Vienna and Craughton. Scott Carpenter is to investigate and submit a formal DR.

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4. Twila reported on the status of the FBA-1 System at Vienna.

a. Vienna has been authorized to purchase the voltage regulator. A surge protector is also required for each PC. LEC is preparing to send the surge protectors 1 July 1987. The power problems Vienna has experienced should be resolved once the voltage regulator and surge protectors are installed.

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b. The list of possible future RFCs to the FBA-1 system from Vienna will be tracked by the SI, Scott Carpenter.

c. Scott presented a technical evaluation of suggestions received from Vienna. See attachment C. The evaluation will be discussed at the next ERB.

d. Questions regarding the use of the modem in Vienna to download software will be added to the wrap-up memo being sent to Vienna to inquire how things are working.

e. A separate message will be sent to all bureaus regarding LEC use of the modem for installation and test on LAN system device. Following installation, this modem will be removed and brought back by LEC

5. Twila also reported on the status of Key West.

a. The failed monitor presumably has been returned to Plainfield. As of now, no word has been received.

d. The additional printer Key West requested requires a DR using the BACH form. their upgrade. The ERB reviewed the DR and endorses the bureau's idea to buy a d using their own bureau funding

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6. Twila reported on the status of the installation at Hong Kong.

a. No word has been received from the installation team. The equipment has arrived at the Bureau. Additional equipment is being shipped tomorrow.

b. [] is leaving for Hong Kong at the end of the week of 22 June 1987. [] is going out around 1 July 1987. Travel of additional team members is not confirmed at this time.

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c. A protocol signal analyzer may need to be sent to Hong Kong. Confirmation of the need to ship the signal analyzer will be received 17 June 1987.

7. Open Discussion covered the following topics:

a. ADD is responsible for bureau communications upgrades. FED will not take on the upgrades of printers. The FBA ERB is responsible for all FBA equipment and printers, except the Comscribe/Extel printers and other commo printers. LEC requires clarification of responsibility with regard to the printers. This situation is being investigated.

b. The DR Procedures in use at Vienna appear to be working. No feedback (negative or positive) has been received. Hong Kong is currently using the procedures. Bill Stanbridge will confirm which bureaus have not received the DR procedures, and a copy of the procedures will be pouched to them. All bureaus should implement these procedures upon receipt.

c. PC security procedures are currently being developed for the bureaus.

d. Write Now 1.51 software is now being used by Vienna and Key West. Twila will have it sent out with CRW's Bach 1.3 package being released 26 June 1987.

e. Currently, a modem in Vienna is being used by LEC to download information from Plainfield. Vienna recommends that this be done in each bureau in an off-line stand alone mode. This request should be addressed as an RFC. The ERB recognizes the potential for mis-use of the modem and the impact to security procedures.

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f. The ERB will prepare an RFC to the Key West system baseline. This RFC will propose removing the ASCII to Baudot converter from the Key West commo circuit when FBIS Headquarters transitions from the MIDAS system to the AFS system. If the RFC is approved and implemented Key West would become the first bureau to use ASCII communications with Headquarters.

g. The ERB wants to recognize for his efforts and thank him for his contributions.

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8. The next Field Bureau ERB is scheduled for Thursday, 25 June at 1300.

Laird Steinberg

Attachments:

- A. FBA ERB Attendees
- B. FBA ERB Agenda
- C. DR Status Report

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DS&T/FBIS/ESG/ADD/SES:LSteinberg:mlh/527-8600 (16JUN87)

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1 - W. Pratt, COTR
1 - T. Forrest, Bur. Seg. Mgr.
1 - LEC
1 - GE/SES Staff
1 - GE/SES Chrono
1 - ADD Staff
1 - ADD Chrono
14 - Bureau Chiefs
1 - Cologne
3 - S & T Units

ATTACHMENT A

FBA ERB Attendees

T. Engle
E. Knox
D. Bernholz
J. Berthiaume
A. Coffin
W. Stanbridge
S. Carpenter
L. Steinberg
J. Barrett
T. Forrest
M. Tanigawa

ATTACHMENT B

FBA ERB AGENDA

- 1) Review of Minutes
 - ERB Meeting Schedule
 - Draft FBA CM Policy Status
 - Paraguay visit results
 - Vienna DR Numbering
 - C/ESG decision on Cologne LAN
 - S & T Unit Requirements
- 2) Review of DR Status
 - DR-SK-003-86 Copal Printer
 - DR-MB-003-86 IBM PC Disk Problem
 - DR-AU-034-86 Comscribe Printers
 - DR-AU-044-86 LIPS-10 Laser Printer
 - DR-AU-001-87 FBA TRANSMIT
 - DR-AU-002-87 FBA-1 TRANSMIT Software Interface
 - DR-AU-005-87 File Server Disk Space
 - DR-HK-001-87 IBM PC/XT Disk Failure
- 3) Vienna Status
 - ZFX Requests
 - Voltage Regulator Bids
 - Power Improvements
 - Failure of 2 IBMs
- 4) Key West Status
 - Failed Monitor
 - Additional Printer
 - DTS Interface
- 5) Hong Kong Status
 - Equipment
 - LEC Installation Team
- 6) Open Discussion